

Arthur Lee to George Washington, July 10, 1771, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM ARTHUR LEE, ESQ. ¹

LONDON July 10th. 1771.

DEAR SIR/

When I sit down to solicit your patronage; I trust more to your goodness, than to any claim I can have on your favor from merit or acquaintance.

Having understood, that it is probable the Assembly will revive the Agency-bill; I take the liberty of entreating your vote & interest, in being appointed. Knowing what influence you very justly possess; I shall greatly depend for success, on your approbation. The desire of serving my immediate Country, in so respectable a character, is I think a laudable ambition; & if an entire devotion to her interests, be a sufficient recommendation, I can plead it with truth.

Should, however, the revival of the Agency-bill, appear to you, not tending to the good of the Colony; I would not be understood to wish, that you should depart one jot from that great line, to promote me. It is only on a supposition, that an Agent should be deemed necessary, that I offer my service. In doing the duty of this office, I hope zeal & assiduity will supply the want of great abilities; & enable me to serve the House, with satisfaction & success.

Library of Congress

I beg the favor, Sir, of being remembered to Mrs Washington, & to her fair Daughter; who is I hope entirely recovered from the indisposition, that formerly affected her.

I have the honour of being with great esteem, Dear Sir Your most Obt. Humbl Servt.
ARTHUR LEE.

1 Sixth son of Thomas and Hannah (Ludwell) Lee, born December 20, 1740; died December 12, 1792.